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- 2. This group is opposed by Malenkov's supporters in East Germany, V S Seme.nov and I F Iljichev, who favor easing tension with West Germany in the economic field, but who consider direct Soviet negotiations with West Germany as an abandonment of the Pieck-Grotewohl-Ulbricht government, which must ultimately bring about the collapse of the regime.
- 3. Molotov and his advisers from the diplomatic group, such as Gromyko, Malik, G N Zarubin and S A Vinogradov, have been under strong pressure from both sides and have so far avoided taking a definite stand. Molotov is still of the opinion that anti-Soviet feeling in the West German population will not fundamentally hinder direct negotiations with West Germany, which must be convinced by events of the desirability of cooperating with the Soviet orbit.

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